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### **Governor Baker Nominates Meghan Spring to Woburn District Court and Thomas Barbar to Middlesex Probate and Family Court**

**BOSTON**—Governor Charlie Baker has nominated Meghan S. Spring to serve as an Associate Justice of the Woburn District Court and Thomas J. Barbar to serve as an Associate Justice in the Middlesex Probate and Family Court. Spring, after practicing in both the private and public sectors, has served as an Assistant Clerk Magistrate in the Lowell District Court since 2013; Barbar has over 20 years serving clients in the private sector specializing in family law, probate litigation and estate planning.

"The experience and temperament these attorneys bring to their respective courts will serve the Commonwealth well," **said Governor Baker**. "I am pleased to nominate them for the Governor's Council advice and consent."

"The District and Probate Courts will be served well by these distinguished attorneys, if confirmed by the Governor's Council," **said Lt. Governor Polito**. "I am confident that the additions of Attorney Spring and Barbar to the bench will provide fair and impartial decision-making to all who appear before them."

The District Court hears a wide range of criminal, civil, housing, juvenile, mental health, and other types of cases. District Court criminal jurisdiction extends to all felonies punishable by a sentence up to five years, and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; all misdemeanors; and all violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws. In civil matters, District Court judges conduct both jury and jury-waived trials, and determine with finality any matter in which the likelihood of recovery does not exceed \$25,000. The District Court also tries small claims involving

up to \$7,000). The District Court's civil jurisdiction also includes many specialized proceedings, including abuse prevention restraining orders and civil motor vehicle infractions.

For more information about the District Court, visit <http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/dc/>

The Probate and Family Court Department has jurisdiction over family-related and probate matters such as divorce, paternity, child support, custody, parenting time, adoption, termination of parental rights, abuse prevention and wills, estates, trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and changes of name.

For more information on the Probate & Family Court, visit: <http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/pfc/>

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

### **About Meghan Spring**

Meghan Streff Spring has served for the last four years as an Assistant Clerk Magistrate for the Lowell District Court where she manages criminal and civil sessions, assists judges on questions of law and procedure, issues search warrants upon findings of probable cause, presides over small claims trials, decides civil motor vehicle appeals, and reviews applications for criminal complaints. She began her career as a law clerk in the Superior Court. She then served in the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, first in the District Court as lead counsel in sixty jury trials, supervising over fifteen prosecutors and teams of victim witness advocates and support staff members in the Cambridge District and Somerville District Courts and later in the Lowell Superior Court as lead counsel where she prosecuted defendants who were charged with homicide, rape, robbery, repeat operating under the influence of alcohol, and narcotics and firearm offenses. From 2007 until 2013, Spring was co-owner at the full-service criminal defense law firm Spring & Spring. She received her *Juris Doctor* in 2001 from Northeastern University Law School and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in from the American University School of Public Affairs in 1998. Spring currently resides in Acton with her family.

## About Thomas Barbar

Thomas J. Barbar has worked at Deutsch Williams Brooks DeRensis & Holland since 2004, most recently for the last ten years as a Principal. Barbar began his legal career as a student defender in the Felony Division of the Dade County Office of the Public Defender in Miami, FL and then as a student attorney at the New England School of Law Lawyering Process Clinic. Upon graduation from law school, he worked as a law clerk for Capozzoli & Drew, and later as an associate in the law office of Diane Capozzoli. From 1997 to 2004, Barbar was a sole practitioner specializing in probate litigation and domestic relations matters, as well as civil litigation and residential real estate. He received his *Juris Doctor* in 1993 from New England Law - Boston. He also attended the University of San Diego Law School in Mexico City, Mexico. Barbar received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Villanova University in 1986. He currently resides in Boston with his husband.

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